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ONTARIO

ONTARIO GOVERNMENT BUSINESS PLANS - 1998-1999

Ministry of the Environment

Ministry of the Environment Homepage

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MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTER

Hon. Norman W. Sterling

Across this province, households, businesses and industry alike recognize that a healthy environment is in everyone's best interest. At the Ministry of the Environment we want to ensure that Ontario residents can enjoy clean air to breathe, safe water to drink and safe land on which to live.

As Minister of the Environment, I am pleased to share with you our 1998-99 business plan. Our goal is to set and enforce strong and clear environmental standards focused on results -- not process. We continue to look beyond traditional methods to ensure our environment is protected for generations to come. This includes greater co-operation with communities, industries and organizations.

This business plan explains some of our key strategies for the coming year. Understanding that a clean environment keeps Ontario competitive and makes the province an attractive place in which to live and work, we will build on the progress we have made. From environmental protection efforts to conservation programs, Ontario has been, and will continue to be, a leader in the development of innovative solutions and technologies.

Our priority will be to find solutions to issues that pose the highest risk to the environment and public health and to prepare for emerging issues like climate change. We will also continue to take action to clean our air. A vehicle inspection and maintenance program, tough new air standards, vigorous enforcement of these standards, and improved monitoring capabilities will further protect our families from the hazards of air pollution. The creation of a new Ontario Great Lakes Renewal Foundation with an endowment of $5 million to attract contributions for clean-up efforts will help to revitalize one of Ontario's most valuable resources. We will maintain a strong regulatory framework while looking for innovative partnerships to encourage all sectors in Ontario to participate in conservation and protection efforts.

A clean and safe environment is an important part of making this province attractive to investors and new jobs. The ministry believes it is playing an important role in helping Ontario become the best jurisdiction in North America. We are determined to keep that trend going.

The Honourable Norman W. Sterling
Minister of the Environment

MINISTRY VISION

The vision of the Ministry of the Environment is:

where a convergence of healthy well-being, recreation, commerce, and industry are sustained in surroundings of clean air, water and land.

To fulfill this vision, the ministry sets clear policies, standards, and rules to protect the environment and to encourage conservation activities. Along with monitoring and enforcing these rules, the ministry looks for innovative approaches to complement regulations. This includes building partnerships with communities, industries and organizations to find flexible, practical, cost-effective ways to strengthen environmental protection and conservation efforts.

A healthy, natural environment is vital to the well-being of our families and to the province's ability to

attract investment and jobs.

We play an important role in making this province the best jurisdiction in North America by providing better, stronger clearer environmental protection for Ontario.

ANNUAL REPORT ON KEY ACHIEVEMENTS AND COMMITMENTS

1997-98 Achievements

Environmental Protection

During 1997-98, the ministry made major strides in our commitment to Cleaner Air including two major program initiatives and a number of related technical advancements.

Under Ontario's Smog Plan, 45 Ontario organizations have signed an Accord supporting emissions reductions. They form a broad coalition of government, business and community representatives voluntarily working together to achieve emissions reduction targets of 25 per cent by 2005 and 45 per cent by 2015. Also, the ministry announced Drive Clean, our mandatory vehicle testing program to reduce exhaust emissions, a major source of smog.

We implemented a new interim standard for fine particulates that damage lung tissue when inhaled, and completed inventories of the amount of emissions in the province for nitrogen oxide (NO_x), volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and fine particulates -- the three primary smog-causing pollutants.

We also completed standards for nine priority airborne pollutants and made significant improvements to our air monitoring capabilities, investing in new state-of-the-art equipment. This is part of our continuing effort to set high environmental standards and ensure they are met.

The ministry's Cleaner Water achievements were also significant. The ministry continued its long history of investing in water and sewage infrastructure activities. We introduced the $200 million Provincial Water Protection Fund. This addresses human health and environmental concerns by providing financial assistance to communities for rehabilitating water and sewage systems. We optimized six municipal water treatment plants to meet Trihalomethane (a chlorination by-product) health guidelines and protect public health in the communities they serve.

Under the Municipal Industrial Strategy for Abatement (MISA), seven of nine regulated industrial sectors must now comply with requirements that their discharges to surface water be non toxic. To improve water quality, we ensured that the current rates of water quality compliance were being maintained for municipal sewage works and municipal water treatment plants. We have also strengthened eight priority surface water quality objectives, and developed four drinking water objectives.

Our achievements for Healthier Ecosystems included: the completion of clean up plans for nine polluted sites in the 17 "areas of concern" in the Great Lakes and completing our restoration work at three sites. Addressing the polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) storage and safe disposal issue, 46 per cent of high level PCBs in service have been taken out of service; and of those in storage, 30 per cent of high level PCBs have been safely disposed since 1995. We have also streamlined the Environmental Assessment process,

to make timely decisions, while maintaining an effective environmental focus.

Conservation

The ministry has taken a number of conservation actions. We worked with industry and other groups on the Voluntary Challenge and Registry program to reduce carbon dioxide emissions and contribute to climate change commitments. By promoting waste reduction, reuse and recycling, we achieved a 32 per cent overall reduction of non-hazardous waste going to disposal from the base year of 1987.

We continued to invest in more efficient infrastructure. Ministry assistance contributed to growth in the environmental protection sector which saw an increase in revenues from $2.5 billion in 1992 to a $5.8 billion industry in 1997.

The ministry's environmental stewardship projects continued to build on past successes. These included proposing improvements to waste regulations and assessing key recycling facilities and programs so they can achieve waste reduction targets more efficiently. We are working with business, industry and the public to reduce the generation of pollutants at their source. As a result, the ministry exceeded its target of 10,000 fewer tonnes of toxic substances and wastes being generated by industries taking part in the ministry's voluntary pollution prevention partnerships and the Pollution Prevention Pledge Program.

1998-99 Commitments

Environmental Protection

Improving air quality in Ontario continues as a top priority in the ministry's environmental protection efforts. As part of Ontario's Smog Plan implementation, the ministry will enter into contractual performance agreements with companies from the petroleum refining, organic chemical and automobile manufacturing sectors to reduce the levels of smog causing pollutants. We will put Drive Clean, the ministry's mandatory vehicle emission testing program, into operation to ensure that polluting vehicles are cleaned up. Other program activities include the development of a strategy to reduce fine particulate that damage lung tissue when inhaled. The ministry will continue to track air emissions in the province and will update emissions inventories for fine particulates, nitrogen oxides (NO_x) and volatile organic compounds (VOCs), pollutants that contribute to the formation of smog. Standard-setting activities will include the implementation of standards for seven airborne pollutants, and the completion of 15 additional draft airborne pollutant standards for consultation. We are also setting higher air quality standards to ensure Cleaner Air.

We will also focus on improving water quality in our lakes and rivers and maintaining a high quality of drinking water. To that end, we will initiate the Ontario Great Lakes Renewal Foundation to promote ongoing water quality improvements in the Great Lakes. The ministry will enhance water standards in the province by completing four new drinking water standards. In fiscal year 1998-99, as part of the new Provincial Water Protection Fund, the ministry will identify and approve funding for communities where environmental and health problems exist.

The ministry will carry out a number of actions to maintain or improve our ecosystems. As part of our toxics reduction efforts, we will achieve measurable reductions from a 1993 baseline, of priority toxic substances which pose a significant risk to human health. The ministry will also play a key role in a federal /provincial working group to develop a Canada-wide standard for mercury. We will set higher targets for water quality by implementing eight surface water quality standards and completing six additional draft water quality standards. The Electric Power Generating and Iron and Steel sector clean water regulations

will become enforceable in fiscal year 1998-99, reducing their pollution discharges to Ontario waters. We will also complete restoration actions for two additional areas of concern in the Great Lakes. Publishing the 1999-2000 Guide to Eating Ontario Sportfish will help the public in understanding the state of our aquatic ecosystems. Finally, environmental assessment milestones will be achieved on average 20 per cent faster, and specific timelines for environmental assessments will be identified.

Conservation

Conservation efforts will focus on reducing pollutants and waste, and on improving sewer and technology infrastructures. Key commitments include a 35 per cent overall reduction of non-hazardous waste going to disposal, and improving regulations to promote waste diversion. We will also work with Ontario's many environmental companies to develop new technologies and expand business. This includes acting as a broker to help environmental companies obtain environmental projects totalling at least $0.5 billion. We will also reduce an additional 12,000 tonnes of toxic substances and wastes through voluntary pollution prevention partnerships and the Pollution Prevention Pledge Program.

CORE BUSINESSES

The ministry has maintained its core business structure from the 1997-98 Business Plan with the exception that the energy core business has been transferred to the new Ministry of Energy, Science and Technology.

Environmental Protection

The ministry is in the business of safeguarding our environment by working to ensure cleaner air, cleaner water, cleaner land and healthier ecosystems for the health and welfare of all Ontarians. We monitor and enforce the rules that protect our air, water and land. We also work in partnership with others to prevent pollution and to achieve common environmental objectives. This includes inviting private enterprise, communities and individuals to find innovative solutions to environmental issues. The ministry monitors the environment to study trends in environmental quality and determine the effectiveness of our activities. This helps us promote sound environmental decision-making and to set clear directions through policies, programs, standards and technology development. The ministry coordinates responses to environmental emergencies and ensures polluters clean up and restore the environment they have damaged.

Conservation

The ministry is in the business of encouraging environmentally sustainable use of water, land, energy and material resources. This includes achieving reduced consumption and more efficient use of resources, more efficient infrastructure such as water and sewage services, and encouraging people and companies to become better stewards of the environment.

Conservation can prevent damage to the environment caused by pollution and can extend the life of non-renewable resources. It also benefits the economy by making more efficient use of available resources and lowering costs to consumers and industry. The ministry provides guidance through partnerships with industry, municipalities, communities, organizations and the public to reduce pollutants and waste, save energy and conserve water. We also continue to help promote Ontario's green industry sector and to encourage the development of new environmental technologies and innovative solutions to conservation

issues.

KEY STRATEGIES

The ministry will continue to focus its efforts on key environmental issues that pose a high risk to the environment and human health; enforce compliance of strong, existing environmental laws; and encourage all sectors to participate in protecting and conserving Ontario's environment.

Building on a Better, Stronger, Clearer Environmental Agenda

The ministry will continue to build an agenda which reflects the important role a clean environment plays in promoting better health and attracting jobs and investment. Ontario's businesses should be able to look ahead, not over their shoulder. To work alongside our better, stronger, clearer regulations, the ministry will use a broad mix of approaches, that go beyond regulation, to achieve our objectives. This includes raising awareness of environmental issues, working in partnership with all sectors to find innovative solutions, and negotiating inter-jurisdictional agreements. The agenda will also promote environmental protection and conservation activities and technologies which are good for the economy and will improve the competitiveness of Ontario businesses.

For 1998-99, priority initiatives will include implementing the Drive Clean program for mandatory vehicle inspection and maintenance in the Greater Toronto Area/Hamilton corridor. Drive Clean will reduce both smog related and climate change gas emissions. We will work with our partners in Ontario's Smog Plan who share our commitment to improving air quality. The ministry will also pursue commitments from nearby U.S. states where more than half of our air pollution originates. We will call upon individuals, governments, industries, and communities to help us develop a response to the Kyoto Protocol on climate change that is right for all Ontarians. As in the past, the ministry will look for innovative, flexible approaches, such as emissions reduction trading, to work alongside standards and regulated limits. We will also rely on our partners to help us ensure Blue Box and waste diversion sustainability. We will integrate these initiatives with ongoing programs to achieve our core business outcomes and specific performance targets identified later in this Plan.

In implementing this agenda, the ministry will take a lead role in consulting with and bringing together individuals and our partners in the federal government, municipalities, environmental, and industry organizations to help in developing new approaches to environmental protection and conservation. We will improve linkages with other ministries, particularly resource and health ministries, to provide a consistent government-wide approach to sustainable development.

Continuing to Redefine our Approach to Delivery

Focussing Compliance

One of the ministry's primary roles is to ensure industries, institutions, individuals and municipalities are complying with environmental laws and regulations. Compliance is achieved through a number of activities such as responding to reports from the public on environmental incidents, reviewing applications for approval, attending public meetings, carrying out inspections and investigations, issuing orders and laying charges for prosecution.

To deliver this part of our mandate more effectively, the ministry focusses its efforts on areas where the greatest environmental benefit can be achieved. We are continually developing ways to prioritize our operations so that resources go towards dealing with environmental issues that are significant or pose a risk to public health as opposed to nuisance type issues. This also includes acting on issues that have a known or anticipated environmental effect or when laws may be violated.

The ministry currently uses and is in the process of developing additional decision-making tools which will help to define and prioritize work at the provincial, regional and local level. These tools include: providing staff with service delivery guidelines and work plans to guide and prioritize their work; compliance guidelines to help staff deal with violations; and procedures for responding to pollution incident reports so that staff clearly know how best to respond.

Innovative Delivery Approaches

Another key element of building a strong environmental agenda involves looking at innovative delivery approaches, including non-regulatory ways to improve environmental protection and conservation. The ministry will continue to develop and use new approaches such as watershed planning, partnership agreements, economic instruments, codes of practices, accreditation, performance-based regulation, mediation, and self-assessment. These new approaches are part of a global trend toward using a a broader mix of policy tools for environmental protection. They also provide an incentive for continuous, cost-effective environmental improvements.

Continuing to Improve Effectiveness, Efficiency and Customer Service

The ministry will continue to improve our effectiveness and efficiency by investing in skills training for our staff, in better information technologies, and by focusing our financial and human resources on priority needs. An ongoing review of our organizational structure will ensure the best alignment to support core businesses. Other activities that will help us better anticipate and respond to emerging environmental and conservation issues include: improving our long term and strategic planning capabilities; improving our policy and scientific capabilities; improving staff skills in developing partnerships, negotiation, and program management; and by improving our monitoring and assessment of environmental quality so that progress can be measured and reported.

KEY PERFORMANCE MEASURES

CORE BUSINESS: ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION			
GOALS/OUTCOMES	**MEASURES**	**TARGETS/STANDARDS**	**98-99 COMMITMENTS**
Cleaner Air	Emissions (in kilotonnes) of smog-causing pollutants.	Emissions of nitrogen oxides (NOx) and volatile organic compounds (VOCs) through voluntary initiatives reduced 25% by year 2005 and 45% by year 2015 (1990 base year).	Establish contractual performance agreements with companies from the petroleum refining, organic chemical and automobile manufacturing

		Emissions of inhalable micro-particulates (PM_{10}) reduced 10% by year 2015. **1990 base** NOx 659 Kt VOCs 868 Kt PM10 221 Kt	sectors. Development of a reduction strategy for inhalable particulate pollutants. Continue to track air emissions plus update emissions inventories for micro-particulates, nitrogen oxides, and volatile organic compounds. Implement standards for seven airborne pollutants. Complete 15 additional draft standards for consultation. Implement Drive Clean program for mandatory vehicle inspection and maintenance
	Timely processing of applications for air emission Certificates of Approval.	Average turnaround time per application reduced 30% by year 2000. (1995 base year - 70 days)	Reduce average turnaround time for air certificates by 15% to 60 days.
Cleaner Water	Toxicity of effluent discharged by industries to surface waters.	Eliminate effluents toxic to fish by all major direct discharge industries by the year 2002. (1991 base year 74% of tests passed)	Ministry audit/reporting of industrial self-monitoring for seven of nine regulated industrial sectors. Remaining two industrial sectors to meet toxicity testing requirements.
	Percentage of municipal water treatment facilities in	Full compliance by facilities.	Maintain compliance rate of 98 %.

	compliance.		Complete four new drinking water standards.
Healthier Ecosystems	Percentage of sportfish consumption restrictions.	Percentage of annual sportfish consumption restrictions in the Great Lakes reduced 10% by year 2010 (1995 base year 570 restrictions).	Ongoing monitoring of sport fish in the Great lakes will continue to track progress. Publish the 1999-2000 Guide to Eating Ontario Sportfish.
	Volume of key toxic pollutants discharged to the environment.	Achieve a 30% reduction in the discharge of benzo(a)pyrene (1993 base year 21,700 kg), a 26% reduction in the discharge of mercury (1993 base year 5,100 kg), a 37% reduction in the discharge of PAH (excluding benzo(a)pyrene) compounds (base 1993 year 459 tonnes) and an 71% reduction in the discharge of dioxins and furans (1993 base year 689 TEQ)	Achieve accumulated reductions of: 24% benzo(a)pyrene 22% mercury 28% PAH 71% dioxins and furans Consult on mercury reduction actions. Establish federal/provincial working group to develop Canada-wide standard for mercury. Electric Power and Iron and Steel sector clean water regulations become enforceable.
	Restoration of Great Lakes areas of concern under Remedial Action Plans (RAP).	Complete implementation of MOE restoration actions for 8 RAP sites by the year 2000.	Complete the implementation of restoration actions for a total of fiver Areas of Concern. Initiate the Ontario Great Lakes Renewal Foundation to improve water quality.
	Volume of	90% of high level PCBs	The volume of

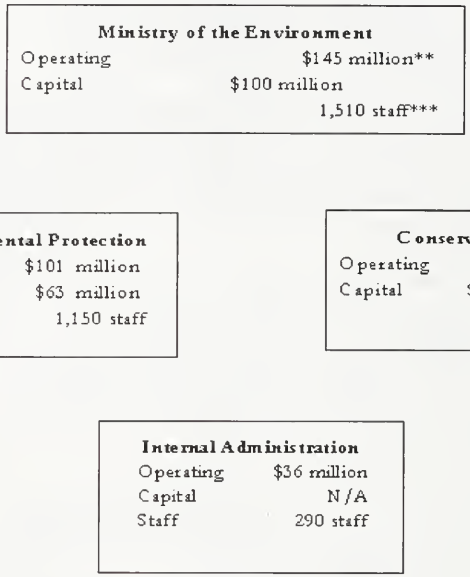
	polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) destroyed and taken out of service.	currently in service to be taken out of service by year 2000 (1994 base year - 10,600 tonnes) 50% of high level PCBs currently in storage to be destroyed by year 2000 (1994 base year 18,600 tonnes).	in-service high level PCBs taken out of service will increase from 46% to 55% Similarly the volume of in-storage high level PCBs destroyed will increase from 30% to 38%.
	Timely processing of individual environmental assessment (EA) submissions.	Reduce average turnaround time of 22 months for Ministerial decisions on individual EAs to 7.5 months. Reduce average turnaround time for Environmental Assessment Board decisions on EAs by at least 50% to less than 2 years.	Reduce average turnaround time for Ministerial decisions on individual EAs by 20% to less than 18 months. Identify timelines for environmental assessments. Reduce turnaround time by 50% to less than 2 years.
	Number of municipalities adopting environmental policies/or strategies.	Continuous improvement to achieve 90% municipal participation (currently 646 municipalities).	Assist 20 municipalities in development of effective environmental policies or strategies.

CORE BUSINESS: CONSERVATION

GOALS/OUTCOMES	MEASURES	TARGETS/STANDARDS	98-99 COMMITMENTS
Resource Conservation	Reduction in non-hazardous waste going to disposal.	Reduction in non-hazardous waste going to disposal towards 50% reduction target. (Base year 1987)	A 35% overall reduction of non-hazardous waste going to disposal.
Efficient Infrastructure	Growth in sales for the Ontario environment industry sector	Ontario environment industry earning over $10 billion/year in sales by 2001.	Introduce environment companies to potential projects totalling at least $0.5 billion through workshops, trade missions and dissemination of

			market intelligence
	Value of capital expenditure deferred as a direct result of:: - implementing recommendations from funded efficiency and optimization studies - increases in integration of conservation into the operation of water and sewer infrastructure.	10% of total annual capital expenditures deferred as a direct result of:: - implementing recommendations from funded efficiency and optimization studies - increase in integration of conservation into the operation of water and sewer infrastructure.	10% of capital expenditures deferred.
	Number of provincially-owned water and sewage systems transferred from the Province to municipalities.	Transfer all 230 provincially-owned water and sewage systems to municipalities by the end of 1999.	Transfer 80% of the area and individual municipal water and sewage systems to municipalities.
Environmental Stewardship	Level of participation in Ontario's Smog Accord to reduce smog causing pollutants in Ontario.	Increased participation in Ontario's Smog Accord. 44 organizations currently signed onto the Smog Accord.	We will bring 12 more associations, companies or organizations into Ontario's Smog Accord.
	Tonnes of toxic substances and wastes reduced through voluntary pollution prevention partnerships and the Pollution Prevention Pledge program.	Reduce 200,000 additional tonnes by year 2010 (from 1996 levels).	Ontario will reduce an additional 12,000 tonnes of toxic substances and wastes through voluntary pollution prevention partnerships and the Pollution Prevention Pledge Program.
	Number of Ontario industries adopting recognized Environmental Management Systems (EMS)	1,000 facilities with a recognized EMS in place by the year 2003.	Determine number of facilities currently registered. Work with 30 companies to adopt a recognized EMS.

1997-98 MINISTRY SPENDING BY CORE BUSINESS - INTERIM ACTUALS*



* PSAAB Basis
** Note: Total year-end spending operating outlook of $158 million included energy core business expenditures of $13.5 million that are not included in the schematic.
*** Staff number excludes staff for the Energy core business

Note: Staff numbers are full time equivalents

1998-99 MINISTRY APPROVED ALLOCATIONS BY CORE BUSINESS - PLAN*

Ministry of the Environment	
Operating	$143 million
Capital	$ 80 million
	1,510 staff

Environmental Protection	
Operating	$99 million
Capital	$65 million
	1,150 staff

Conservation	
Operating	$5 million
Capital	$15 million
	70 staff

Internal Administration	
Operating	$39 million
Capital	N/A
Staff	290 staff

* PSAAB Basis

Note: Staff numbers are full time equivalents

WHO TO CALL

Questions or comments about the ministry's business plan are welcomed and should be addressed to:

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